PASS' has been recently in operation on the Indo-Myanmar Border in the State of Arunachal Pradesh for two days only in a month for the purpose of border trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether barter trade is permissible on that station and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, by when 'PANGSAUNG PASS' is likely to be opened for Indo-Myanmar border trade;

(d) whether a Chinese delegation recently expressed interest in the opening of the said route; and

(e) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) There is no Land Customs Station or customs gate named 'PANSAUNG' in the state of Arunachal Pradesh along the Indo-Myanmar border. However, there is a Land Customs Station at Nampong (Pangsang Pass) in the state of Arunachal Pradesh along the Indo-Myanmar, which is not operational.

(b) Border trade through Nampong Land Customs Station is not permissible as this Land Customs Station is not a designated customs port for the purpose of items of Article-I of Indo-Myanmar Trade Agreement of 1994.

(c) No decision has been taken to open Pansaung Pass for Indo-Myanmar border trade.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Discussions on Trade prospects and problems with Japan

4352. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA:
SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether talks were held with the Japanese Minister of Trade and Economy recently on trade prospects and problems;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the talks in Tokyo ended with an agreement to further strengthen dialogue within the ambit of the India-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement;

(c) what specific steps were suggested to give life to the stagnant trade with Japan;

(d) whether it is a fact that trade relations with Japan are on the decline; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE **AND** INDUSTRY (SHRI E V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) During the recent visit of Commerce and Industry Minister to Japan, both sides agreed for improvement of the investment environment, development of supporting industry, investment promotion, and securing stable supply of natural resources & investement cooperation in their development through various measures with a view to reinforcing economic relationship between the two countries.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Steps to increase Border trade with China

4353. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether government has made any efforts to secure overland access to Chinese markets through Nathu La and other border points;

(b) whether there is any trade between India and China through roads and border towns presently;

(c) whether government had discussed the issue of cross-border trade with China through roads;

(dj if so, what is the reaction of Chinese Government;

(e) what steps will be taken to increase border trade with China; and